GENERAL SECRETARIAT.

Directs the Recovery of Lumpsum Grazing Fees in three instalments.

READ—

Government Order No. D. 21-30—Ft. 87-26-6, dated 6th April 1927, sanctioning the introduction of the lumpsum grazing fee system in the State Forests of the State.

2. Letter No. D2. 544-27, dated 7—10th May 1928, from the Chief Conservator of Forests, explaining the difficulty experienced in the recovery of the fees under this system and suggesting certain measures for removing the difficulty.

ORDER No. G. 14238-48—FT. 53-27-11, DATED 26TH JUNE 1928.

In connection with the recovery of the lumpsum grazing fees, the Chief Conservator submits the following proposals :—

(1) That the fee may be recovered in three instalments on or before the 15th July, 15th August and 15th September every year;

(2) That non-payment of any instalment should render the village cattle entering the forests liable to be impounded in the nearest forest or revenue cattle pound ; and

(3). That the entry of cattle into the forest when any instalment remains unpaid should be dealt with as an offence under the Forest Regulation.

The Revenue Commissioner who was consulted in the matter considers that while the first and the second recommendations are suitable, the third proposal is undesirable and unnecessary. Government agree with the Revenue Commissioner and are pleased to approve of the first two proposals of the Chief Conservator referred to above. The fees due under proposal No. (1) will be recovered by the Revenue Department and credited to the Forest Department.

R. RANGA RAO,
General Secretary to Government.

FINANCIAL SECRETARIAT.

Sanctions the opening of a special Sub-Registry Office at Maddur and the replacing of the special offices at Shikarpur and Sorab by *Ex-officio* offices.

READ—

Government Order No. J. 5492-3—Regis. 4-21-10, dated 26th May 1922, directing that the opening of a Special Sub-Registry Office at Maddur be deferred.

2. Correspondence ending with letter No. C. R. 196—27-28, dated 3rd July 1928, from the Inspector-General of Registration in Mysore.

(*i*) " In continuation of my letter No. C. R. 196—27-28, dated 29th February 1928, regarding the opening of a special Sub-Registry Office at Maddur in the Mandya Taluk, I have the honor to state that this question was raised in the Representative Assembly in 1919, and again in 1921. But it was then observed that Bangalore, Chamrajnagar, Nanjangud, Malvalli and T.-Narsipur Sub-Registry Offices were in greater need of bifurcation than the Mandya Sub-Registry Office as they were registering larger number of documents, and it was recommended that the question of opening a Sub-Registry Office at Maddur might be deferred until there was an improvement in the financial conditions of the State. The Government passed orders accordingly (*vide* Government Order No. J. 5492-3—Regis. 4-21-10, dated 28th May 1922).

(*ii*) The Bangalore Sub-Registry Office has since been split up into two with effect from 1st July 1924.

From the undermentioned figures, it is seen that the average number of registrations in the Mandya Sub-Registry Office has exceeded those at Nanjangud and T.-Narsipur. Although the number of Registrations is still larger at Chamrajnagar and Malvalli, the District Registrar reports that there is no inconvenience to the parties in those Taluks as the Taluk Head Quarters are situated centrally, and that Mandya is not so situated. He says that Maddur is the centre for the three hoblis of Maddur, Koppa and Atgur and that the registration work at Mandya will increase still more with the advent of the Irwin Canal, and therefore recommends that the said Sub-Registry Office may be split up into two by opening a new one at Maddur.

Year	Number of documents registered in the offices of				
	Mandya	Chamrajnagar	Malvalli	T.-Narsipur	Nanjangud
1924-25 ..	5,737	7,413	6,538	5,304	5,432
1925-26 ..	6,190	7,059	6,370	5,235	5,881
1926-27 ..	5,623	6,729	6,227	5,325	6,132
Total ..	17,550	21,201	19,135	15,864	17,445
Average ..	5,850	7,067	6,378	5,288	5,815

(*iii*) One-half of the total number of documents registered on the average in a year in the Mandya Sub-Registry Office relates to the three hoblis of Maddur, Koppa and Atgur. Although there is Railway communication between Mandya and Maddur, it may be inconvenient to the people of the interior hoblis of Koppa and Atgur to go to Mandya. Moreover from my inspections I have gathered that the work of this office is more heavy than the figures indicate and needs relief.

(*iv*) Both in consideration of the heavy work in the office and the inconvenience felt by the people, I consider that the opening of a Sub-Registry Office at Maddur is necessary.

(*v*) Along with the bifurcation of the heavily worked offices, the question of abolition of some of the lightly worked offices referred to in the correspondence ending with Government Order No. P. 6345-6—Regis. 17-23-23, dated 15th May 1925, was also taken up by me. During my inspections, observed that the average number of registrations in a year in the Sub-Registry Offices of Shikarpur and Sorab is only 672 and 572 respectively which comes to 2 or 3 documents a day, and that as such there is no sufficient work for a whole time Sub-Registrar in both the places.

(*vi*) The average income for a year in the Sub-Registry Office at Shikarpur is about Rs. 1,750, while the cost of establishment is Rs. 1,290. At Sorab the income and expenditure are Rs. 1,850 and Rs. 1,330 respectively. If these two offices are converted into *Ex-officio* ones, the income will not in any way go down. The arrangement proposed will not cause much inconvenience to the public as the Taluk Sheristedars will be able to cope without difficulty with two or three documents on an average per day. The District Registrar, Shimoga District, whom I consulted reports that the registration work in those two taluks may be entrusted to the Taluk Sheristedars.

(*vii*) The savings that will be effected by the abolition of these two offices will be about Rs. 1,500 a year. This amount will be just enough to meet the extra expenditure to be incurred for the opening of an office at Maddur.

(*viii*) If this view commends itself to Government, orders may kindly be passed for the opening of a Sub-Registry Office at Maddur and for the abolition of those at Shikarpur and Sorab.

(*ix*) On receipt of the orders, a further report will be submitted regarding the posting of a Sub-Registrar to Maddur and the necessary establishment for him."

ORDER NO. FL. 611-15—REGIS. 1-28-2, DATED 23RD JULY 1928.

Government are pleased to approve of the recommendations of the Inspector-General of Registration for the opening of a Special Sub-Registry Office at Maddur and for replacing the special offices at Shikarpur and Sorab by *ex-officio* offices.

2. The Inspector-General of Registration is requested to submit detailed proposals for giving effect to these changes, as early as possible.

B. SRINIVASA IYENGAR,
Financial Secretary to Government.

Passes orders on the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee on the Comptroller's Audit and Appropriation Report for 1926-27.

READ—

Government Order No. R. E. L. 318-345—L. C. 9-27-3, dated 17th December 1927, constituting the Public Accounts Committee for the year 1927-28.

2. Audit and Appropriation Report of the Comptroller on the accounts for the year 1926-27, received on 4th February 1928.

3. Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Audit and Appropriation Accounts of 1926-27.

ORDER NO. FL. 648-707—G. F. 224-27-1, DATED 24TH JULY 1928.

Following the convention that the Appropriation Accounts of a year should be dealt with before the close of the succeeding year, the Committee submitted their report on the accounts of 1926-27, in time for being placed before the Legislative Council at the Session held in June 1928 and the Council has approved of the recommendations of the Committee.

2. Government have considered the report of the Comptroller and the recommendations made by the Public Accounts Committee and are pleased to pass the following orders.

3. PARAS 3 AND 24 OF THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.—*Form and contents of the Comptroller's Report.*—The Committee note with satisfaction that the suggestion made by the Committee of the previous year for improving the form of the Audit and Appropriation Report has been carried out by the Comptroller but they observe that in a few cases of irregularities the amounts involved are not mentioned and that the report should be made complete in this respect as well. The Comptroller is requested to give effect to this suggestion.

4. PARAS 6-8.—*Variations between Grant and Actuals.*—The Committee invite attention to the large savings of Rs. 26·3 lakhs on a total grant of Rs. 61·29 lakhs under Capital and Depreciation Funds and point out that the occurrence of heavy lapses under this group is a repeating feature in the last three years. Government endorse the opinion of the Committee that variations of such magnitude between estimates and results upset ways and means operations and may also lead to loss of interest on funds unnecessarily held in expectation of their being drawn according to sanctioned programmes.

As suggested by the Committee, attempts should be continuously made to reduce divergences between Grants and Actuals to the minimum and this result should be secured by making the process of budgetting more accurate and that of watching the progress of outlay more vigilant.

5. PARAS 9 AND 10.—*Control of Expenditure.*—The Committee comment on the number of cases in which supplementary grants were obtained, when there was really no need for them as the actual charges were well within the original grants. They emphasise the need for watching the course of expenditure from month to month and suggest that the possibilities of reappropriations should be fully explored before demands for grants are made. They recommend the early adoption of suitable rules for improving the control of expenditure with reference to appropriations. The Comptroller is requested to submit early his final proposals in consultation with the Chief Engineer and Director of Public Instruction for the orders of Government.

6. PARA 14.—*Excess over grants.*—Government are glad to note that there are only three cases of Excess Grants requiring sanction and that the position in 1926-27, in this respect is an improvement on that in the preceding year.

In recommending that the Excess Grants be passed, the Committee observe that the excesses should have been foreseen by the Departments of Land Revenue and Industries and Commerce and suggest that timely action should be taken to prevent the recurrence of cases of this kind in future. The attention of these Departments is drawn to the Committee's observations.

7. PARAS 19-20.—*Grants for Revenue Accounts of Industrial Works.*—The Comptroller has brought to notice that under the existing arrangement the money required for the Revenue Expenditure of the Iron Works and other Industrial Works is voted twice, once under 'working expenses' in the Revenue Budget and again under 'Loans and Advances'. The Committee recommend that the arrangement may be revised with effect from the budget of 1929-30. While agreeing with the Comptroller that the existing procedure which involves double voting should be modified, the Committee observe that the new arrangement adopted should not afford scope for expenditure other than that duly sanctioned nor should it lead to any divergence in the exhibition of transactions in the accounts of the Concern and those of the Comptroller. The Comptroller is requested to submit in consultation with the Board of Management of the Iron Works suitable proposals in this matter for the orders of Government.

Government agree with the Committee that losses on the working of Industrial Concerns should be separately shown and brought under the Rules for voting of grants and that the existing procedure according to which loss is shown as a minus entry on the Revenue side may be continued.

8. PARA 21.—*Changes in Classification.*—Government accept the Committee's suggestion made in this para and direct that all material changes in classification be referred to the Public Accounts Committee for consideration before they are adopted.

PART II. AUDIT REPORT.

9. PARA 25.—*Audit objections and their disposal.*—Government note with regret that the present position in regard to the communication of objections to the officers concerned and the attention which they receive on the part of the latter is far from satisfactory, and that in a large number of cases mentioned in the Comptroller's Report, the objections raised had not been finally dealt with even by the time when they came under the investigation of the Committee.

Under the standing orders, the Comptroller is required to bring to the notice of Government in the Administrative Department concerned, cases of irregularities relating to financial transactions which he proposes to include in the Audit and Appropriation Report, with a view to necessary action being taken promptly for their final disposal. The attention of all Heads of Departments is invited to the several orders relating to the communication and clearance of audit objections. Government desire that there should be expeditious disposal of audit objections and that every case of irregularity relating to the financial transaction of a year should be finally dealt with before the close of that year or, at any rate, before the Comptroller's Report comes up for consideration by the Public Accounts Committee. In cases where the final disposal of Audit objections is not reached by the time the Committee meets, the officers concerned should furnish full explanation as to why they could not be dealt with earlier.

10. PARA 26 IBID.—It is unsatisfactory to observe that the Public Works and Electrical Departments are responsible for departing in a number of cases from the fundamental rule that no expenditure should be incurred on works which are not duly supported by estimates and appropriations sanctioned by competent authority. The Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, the Chief Engineer, Krishnarajasagara Works and the Chief Electrical Engineer are requested to report what action they propose to take to effectively stop this irregularity.

11. PARA 27.—The instances reported of laxity in the care of measurement books should be investigated and suitable disciplinary action taken in the case of the officers concerned. The rules laid down in the Departmental Code for the custody of Measurement Books and Pass Order Books (which require the same care as Cheque Books) should be scrupulously observed.

12. PARAS 28-30.—Government agree that purchases of materials long in advance of undertaking the works for which they are intended are highly irregular and that in cases of loss to Government, the personal liability of the officers concerned should be enforced. Government also endorse the opinion of the Committee that the stock balances in the Electrical, Railway and Military Departments should be reduced to the minimum by preventing unnecessary purchases and by periodically disposing of articles found surplus or obsolete, after complete stock-taking.

13. PARA 31.—*Delay in the Recovery from Local Bodies and Departments of Government of the value of works carried out for them by the Public Works Department.*—There should be no delay in the recovery from Local Bodies and Departments of Government of the value of works carried out for them by the Public Works Department. Government agree with the Committee that recovery from these Bodies and Departments should be enforced as the expenditure on their behalf is incurred or as soon as the works are completed and that if in any case difficulty in realising the cost of works is apprehended, arrangements should be made to obtain necessary amounts on deposit before executing the works.

14. PARA 31.—*Amounts unremitted to Treasury.*—It is a fundamental rule that money received by a Government Officer should be immediately brought to account and remitted to Treasury without delay. Instances of departure from the authorized procedure should be investigated by Heads of Departments as soon as they are brought to notice and necessary action should be taken without delay to prevent their recurrence.

15. PARAS 33 AND 34.—*Drawing money in advance or in excess of requirements and delay in accounting for it or recouping the amount met from permanent advance.*—Some cases have been brought to notice in which money was drawn in advance or in excess of requirements. Instances of delay in accounting for amounts drawn or in recouping expenditure met from permanent advances have also been reported. This is not satisfactory. Heads of Departments are requested to take all necessary measures to put a stop to these irregularities. There is no reason why money should be drawn from the Treasury before it is required for disbursement or why an amount drawn should remain unaccounted for beyond the prescribed period. As suggested by the Committee it is necessary to have the accounts of all imprest holders overhauled so that charges incurred from them and supported by authority and vouchers may be included in general accounts and personal liability of the officers, concerned enforced in cases of shortage discovered. The Heads of Departments are requested to arrange for an early investigation and submit a report of the result through the Comptroller.

16. PARA 35 IBID.—*Belated Claims.*—Delays in payment of claims against Government are opposed to rules and should be effectively stopped. In regard to very old claims which are often not capable of verification, there is, as observed by the Committee, the risk of admitting other than valid charges. It is necessary that belated claims which are not capable of proof should be disallowed. The Committee suggest that as a working rule it is desirable to lay down that a claim which is more than five years old should not ordinarily be admitted, Government accept this suggestion. When, however, the validity of an old claim is established by acceptable evidence, a report of the circumstances in which the delay occurred should be made so that suitable action might be taken to prevent the recurrence of such cases.

17. PARA 36.—*Comparison of Departmental Realisations with Treasury Credits.*—The Committee observe that the agreement of revenue and receipts as booked in Departmental accounts with the corresponding sums brought to credit in Treasury accounts is an important monthly duty to be performed by all Departments. Government invite the attention of all Heads of Departments to the Committee's observations in this respect and they desire that every endeavour should be made to secure complete agreement between the two sets of figures and that mention should invariably be made of the result of the action taken, in the Annual Departmental Administration Reports.

18. PARA 37.—*Accounts of Residential Buildings.*—It is reported that the rents realised on account of Residential Buildings which are expected to pay their way do not cover the interest on capital and the cost of maintenance. The Chief Engineer is requested to examine whether the existing classification into Residential and Non-Residential Buildings requires revision and whether the rent rules require any modification with a view to make the investment on these buildings yield a fair return.

19. PARA 38.—*Industrial Concerns worked by the Department of Industries and Commerce.*—The Committee observe that the financial condition of these concerns except the Soap Factory has not been satisfactory for some time past and they suggest that prompt action should be taken to improve their organisation and

operation for preventing losses on working. Government agree with the Committee. The Director of Industries and Commerce is requested to submit proposals for giving effect to the suggestions of the Committee.

20. PARA 39.—*Decentralisation of Audit.*—Having regard to the magnitude of expenditure in the Public Works Department, the Committee suggest that arrangements should be made to equip it with an effective system of internal audit control and that the Chief Engineer should be afforded adequate assistance in the conduct of the administration of his department on the financial side. This question is under the consideration of Government.

21. PARA. 40.—The attention of the Agent and Railway Secretary is invited to the Committee's observations in para 40 of the Report and to the directions contained in Government Orders No. Fl. 5726-9—G. F. 213-23-1, dated 17th April 1924 and Fl. 8991-9050—G. F. 138-26-3, dated 1st June 1927. Government wish to emphasise again the need for greater co-operation between the Audit and other Departments of the Railway and for the full utilisation by the Agent of the services of the Auditor in his capacity as the Financial Adviser to the Head of the Railway Administration.

22. In regard to other matters dealt with in the Committee's Report or their Proceedings, Government desire that the suggestions made by the Committee should receive the careful attention of the Heads of Departments concerned and that they should take all necessary action without delay to give effect to them.

B. SRINIVASA IYENGAR,
Secretary to Government,
Financial Department.